

# CCD BULLETIN

*Issues in Coastal Community Development*

## FROM THE FIELD: THE WINGSPREAD ACCORD

Political boundaries can present significant obstacles to planning on a regional level, but involving key agencies in a dialogue about common interests can open the door to coordination and collaboration. This was the case in the southern Lake Michigan area, where Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant (IISG) worked with four regional planning agencies in Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin to develop the “Wingspread Accord”, an agreement to take a unified approach to mapping the region’s future.

To start the process, Sea Grant provided the funding for a two-day conference at the Wingspread Center in Racine, Wisconsin in 2001. About 40 officials from the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission, Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, Chicago Area Transportation Study, and Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission met to discuss planning issues for the region. As part of the program, Brian Miller, Associate Director of IISG, identified water supplies and critical coastal resources that could be impacted by future growth in the region. Miller also discussed the importance of incorporating natural resource protection into future regional plans, and emphasized the necessity to balance the area’s finite water supply with future growth, given the depletion of deep water aquifers in response to recent growth pressures. As a direct result of this conference, the Wingspread Accord was signed in fall 2001, committing 17 counties in an area covering nearly 8,000 square miles to work together to plan for natural resource protection and sound economic development.



[Photo from Northeastern Planning Commission Web Site]

In 2004, the Wingspread initiative led to the creation of the Tri-State Water Consortium to plan for a sustainable, high quality water supply for future generations in the greater Chicago metropolitan area. Initially funded by IISG and now supported by the Joyce Foundation, the consortium consists of 44 government, industry, and organizational representatives from the three states. The consortium conducted a “Straddling the Divide” conference in Chicago in February of 2005, where researchers, policy-makers and agency officials met to discuss science and policy steps that are needed to work toward a sustainable water supply in the Chicago Metropolitan region.

Sea Grant continues to play a leading role in assisting the regional partnership, particularly with regard to natural resource issues. Currently IISG is partnering with Wisconsin and Michigan Sea Grant to sponsor Wingspread III in late fall of 2005 or the spring of 2006. This expanded gathering will work to identify common coastal management issues that can best be addressed by collaborative regional planning. Future environmental challenges such as Great Lakes restoration, impacts of land use change on Lake Michigan, greenway and water trail development, transportation planning, and water supply issues, will require the continued attention of planning agencies at a lake-wide ecosystem scale.

For more information, contact Brian Miller at [bmiller3@purdue.edu](mailto:bmiller3@purdue.edu).



## COMMUNITY TOOL SHED

### ***Rapid Watershed Planning Handbook***

This comprehensive, practical manual from the Center for Watershed Protection is an excellent guide for creating an effective watershed plan quickly and inexpensively. Geared towards watershed planning professionals, *Rapid Watershed Planning* contains everything needed to develop a cost-effective watershed plan, including management options, analysis tools, and case studies of real-world watershed plans. Also includes guidance on mapping, monitoring, and modeling techniques. This document is not available electronically; it can be purchased (\$40) at:

[www.cwp.org/PublicationStore/TechResearch.htm](http://www.cwp.org/PublicationStore/TechResearch.htm).

### ***Rapid Watershed Planning***

from the Center for Watershed Protection

[www.stormwatercenter.net/Slideshows/rapid\\_files/frame.htm](http://www.stormwatercenter.net/Slideshows/rapid_files/frame.htm)

This PowerPoint presentation summarizes the key points of the *Planning Handbook* described above, providing a good basic overview of the watershed planning process.

### ***Placemaking Tools for Community Action***

[www.placematters.com/Placemaking/Placemaking\\_v1.pdf](http://www.placematters.com/Placemaking/Placemaking_v1.pdf)

This booklet from CONCERN, Inc. is a compendium of tools that can be used for various elements of the planning process, from brainstorming and visioning to simulated models and GIS. Also includes discussion of goal identification and tool selection.

NOTE to participants in the **November 2003 Smart Growth training at EPA**: a copy of *Placemaking Tools* was included in your course binder, under tab #3.



## REGIONAL PLANNING INITIATIVES

### ***Envision Utah***

[www.envisionutah.org](http://www.envisionutah.org)

This regional initiative is based on the development of a “Quality Growth Strategy” that will help preserve critical lands, promote water conservation and clean air, improve the region’s transportation systems, and provide housing options for all residents. The approach has relied heavily on involvement of the community and local officials, with a focus on local land use decision-making and meeting demand for varied housing types.

### ***Common Ground: A Blueprint for Regional Action***

[www.nipcc.org/cg](http://www.nipcc.org/cg)

This project from the Northeast Illinois Planning Commission has recently issued a draft regional framework plan to guide the region’s future land use and development, by coordinating local land use plans and regional level decisions in response to projected population and employment growth by 2040.

### ***Raritan Basin Watershed Management Project***

[www.raritanbasin.org](http://www.raritanbasin.org)

A joint initiative of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and New Jersey Water Supply Authority, this watershed initiative was formed to address watershed pollutant loads and water supply issues that could not be addressed by regulatory programs alone. The website contains information on the planning process as well as links to the full basin plan and details on subwatershed strategies.